

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /148 W

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R 191605Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9373

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18212

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL MEETING: REGIONAL FUND

1. KUEHN OF THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY REPORTS THAT THE DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL POLICY DURING THE RECENT EC COUNCIL MEETING WAS THE BITTEREST AND MOST ACRIMONIOUS EVER SEEN IN BRUSSELS. ACCORDING TO KUEHN, THE BRITISH WERE APPARENTLY ACTING UNDER THE MISCONCEPTION THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED A POLITICAL COMMITMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL BOTH DURING COPENHAGEN AND EARLIER FOR A HIGHER CONTRIBUTION THAN THE GERMANS OFFERED IN BRUSSELS AND THEY FELT THE GERMANS WERE NOW WELSHING ON THEIR COMMITMENTS. KUEHN DENIED THAT THE FRG HAD MADE ANY MASSIVE COMMITMENTS AND ATTRIBUTED THE
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MISUNDERSTANDING TO THE USUAL MIXUP THAT RESULTS FROM TETE-A-TETES BETWEEN HEADS OF STATE. KUEHN REPORTED

THAT THE BRITISH HAD ATTACKED THE GERMANS FOR PROVIDING LARGE QUANTITIES OF SUBSIDIZED CREDITS TO THE EAST AS A FORM OF WAR REPARATIONS PAYMENT AND URGED THEM TO GIVE SOME OF THAT MONEY TO THEIR COMMUNITY PARTNERS INSTEAD.

2. KUEHN SAID THAT THERE IS A DEBATE RAGING WITHIN THE FRG NOW AS TO WHAT TO DO NEXT. HE SAID THAT ONE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT URGED THAT THE FRG COMPROMISE AND IMPROVE THEIR OFFER BUT THAT THERE WERE MANY WHO FELT THAT IF THE FRG DID THIS THEY WOULD LOOK LIKE PATSIES WHO WOULD FOLD WHENEVER THE HEAT GOT TOO HIGH.

3. COMMENT: DURING THE CONVERSATION, KUEHN REMARKED THAT THE BRITISH HAD NOT GIVEN AN INCH DURING THE COPENHAGEN DISCUSSIONS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. ALTHOUGH SOME OF OUR OTHER ECONOMIC CONTACTS TAKE A SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE FRG IS ESTABLISHING A CLEAR LINK IN ITS EC NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PROGRESS ON THE ENERGY FRONT AND GERMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROGRAMS THAT PRIMARILY BENEFIT OTHERS.
HILLENBRAND

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